

# New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

**Jon Goldstein**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Jim Noel**  
Deputy Secretary

**Arthur "Butch" Blazer**  
Division Director  
Forestry Division



Regional Forester: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Regional Forester: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Regional Forester: \_\_\_\_\_  
CC Staff: EAP, FOR  
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May 20, 2010

REC'D USDA  
REGIONAL FORESTER'S OFFICE  
SOUTHWESTERN REGION

MAY 21 2010

Corbin Newman  
Regional Forester  
USDA Forest Service  
Southwest Region Office  
333 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Mr. Newman:

The EMNRD Forestry Division wishes to lend its support to your Region's *Southwest Jemez Mountains Restoration Project*. The Division has been engaged in project planning and supports this effort for a number of reasons:

By planning at the watershed level, the project takes a true landscape approach to restoration at a scale that's broad enough to be effective and yet focused enough to be manageable. The plan concentrates on National Forest System land but includes complimentary work on adjacent Pueblo and National Park Service lands, and the intent to coordinate with the Forestry Division, NRCS, soil and water conservation districts and individuals on treatments to private lands.

The Santa Fe National Forest invited stakeholders from all sectors, operating at the local to state level, to be involved in the project planning. The plan takes into account priorities identified in New Mexico's draft Statewide Natural Resources Assessment, and incorporates input provided by Forestry Division staff throughout the project's design phase.

The project considers the threats and causes of degraded forest and watershed health, and proposes a variety of actions geared to address those causes using restoration practices targeted to different ecosystems. Data and analysis from the multiparty monitoring initiative is expected to add important information to the body of knowledge about restoration specific to this eco-region. Additionally, the project goals and objectives align with the Division's in regard to conserving working landscapes, protecting watersheds from harm, and enhancing public benefit from natural resources. Its implementation will help maintain existing forest-based businesses, sorely needed to facilitate restoration work in this region - something the Division has long supported.



This approach is in agreement with recommendations in the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Health Plan, which promotes project development at the scale at which natural processes occur, encourages collaboration across jurisdictions and ownerships, and considers the causes of degradation to specific systems.

The Forestry Division is committed to helping this project succeed by participating in multiparty monitoring and adaptive management initiative and continuing its work on non-federal lands. The Division is currently managing fuels reduction and restoration projects in this area through partnerships with the Cuba SWCD, NRCS, private landowners and the New Mexico Forest Industry Association. We will continue to provide technical assistance through our District and state offices, and intend to provide financial assistance through grant programs, as well as field support through our Inmate Work Camp program, as resources allow.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further support for this worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Arthur Blazer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arthur "Butch" Blazer  
New Mexico State Forester